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# CITY OF HARTFORD

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## Hartford to Start Larvicide Treatment

(June 7, 2011) – The City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services today announced that, as part of the mosquito management initiative, catch basins and wetland areas in the city will be treated with larvicide to control larval mosquitoes in aquatic habitats.

Larvicide is the most efficient and effective method of managing mosquitoes because larvae are concentrated in relatively small, well-defined, aquatic habitats. The larvicide used is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection. It is safe for the environment and does not pose any adverse threat when used in accordance with the label. In addition, adulticide barriers will be set up at certain park locations to control adult mosquito population.

This is the time of year for peak risk exposure to West Nile Virus (WNV) infected mosquitoes. It is important for residents to be aware of the risk of WNV infection and to recognize the importance of taking recommended personal protection precautions to avoid mosquito bites and of taking measures to reduce mosquito-breeding areas near their homes. We recommend that residents take the following personal protection precautions to avoid mosquito bites:

### Precautions to avoid mosquito bites include:

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn.
- Be sure door and windows screens are tight fitting and in good repair.
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Clothing material should be tightly woven.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors.
- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions.
- When using DEET (the most widely used insect repellent) on children, use a product containing the lowest concentration effective for the time spent outdoors (for example, 6% lasts approximately two hours and 20% for four hours) and wash treated skin when returning indoors. Do not apply under clothing, to wounds or irritated skin, the hands of children, or to infants less than two months old.

### Measures to reduce mosquitoes around your home include:

- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, tire swings.
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows.
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and when not in use, pool covers.
- Use landscaping techniques to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

### Resources for Additional Information:

Hartford HHS, (860) 757-4730 and [www.hartford.gov/Human\\_services](http://www.hartford.gov/Human_services)

CT Department of Public Health, (860) 509-7994 and Website at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us>